

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

OMB-01 SAM-01 EB-07 AID-05 ACDA-05 /088 W

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R 280942Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1169

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

CINCUSAFE

USCINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJ: ECEVIT COMMENTS ON CYPRUS SITUATION

1. OVER THE OCTOBER 25-26 WEEKEND, IZMIR DAILY YENI ASIR PUBLISHED AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH OPPOSITION REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) LEADER BULENT ECEVIT. INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN NATIONAL DAILIES OCTOBER 28. IN THE INTERVIEW ECEVIT AGAIN MADE THE POINT THAT THE COALITION GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT HESITATE TO RESOLVE THE CYPRUS PROBLEM BECAUSE OF OTHER DIFFICULTIES IT MIGHT BE HAVING EITHER WITH THE UNITED STATES OR WITHIN THE COALITION ITSELF. HE SAID THAT AS LONG AS THE UNITED STATES EMBARGO IS NOT FULLY LIFTED, THERE ARE OF COURSE PSYCHOLOGICAL DIFFICULTIES IN TAKING STEPS TO RESOLVE THE CYPRUS QUESTION, BUT THAT A RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE OVERCOME THESE DIFFICULTIES BECAUSE CYPRUS WAS A MATTER

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INVOLVING TURKEY, NOT THE UNITED STATES. HE SAID "IF WE WANTED

TO SHOW A REACTION TO THE UNITED STATES OR AT LEAST TO CONGRESS FOR ITS CONDUCT WHICH WAS UNWORTHY OF A FRIEND AND ALLY, WE COULD HAVE SHOWN THIS REACTION IN OTHER FIELDS WHICH THE UNITED STATES HERSELF WOULD HAVE FELT." WHILE CLAIMING THAT THE EMBARGO HAD NOT BEEN LIFTED AND THAT IT HAD ONLY CHANGED FORM AND IN DOING SO HAD TAKEN A WORSE FORM THAN BEFORE, ECEVIT SAID THAT "IF STEPS ARE TO BE TAKEN ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE -- AND THEY MUST BE TAKEN -- THEY MUST BE TAKEN REGARDLESS OF THESE POINTS." ECEVIT AGAIN AFFIRMED THAT THE RPP WOULD BE CONSTRUCTIVE ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE, THAT IT HAD INFORMED THE GOVERNMENT OF ITS VIEWS MONTHS BEFORE, AND THAT IT HAD ASSURED FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL THAT THE RPP WOULD CREATE NO DIFFICULTY FOR A CYPRUS SOLUTION.

2. COMMENT: ECEVIT'S STATEMENT IS STRONGEST AFFIRMATION TO DATE THAT RPP WILL NOT STAND IN THE WAY OF REASONABLE CYPRUS SOLUTION PROVIDED THAT THE SOLUTION CONFORMS TO THE VIEWS ECEVIT HAS PREVIOUSLY COMMUNICATED TO THE GOVERNMENT BUT NOT MADE PUBLIC. WITH THIS CONDITION, THE RPP IS PROBABLY RESERVING THE RIGHT TO CRITICIZE LATER. WITH RESPECT TO REACTIVATION OF U.S. MILITARY INSTALLATIONS, HOWEVER, ECEVIT HAS TAKEN A HARD LINE, AND HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WILL FEEL FREE TO CRITICIZE ANY AGREEMENT THE GOT ACCEPTS.
MACOMBER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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06 JUL 2006

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